

metallocene); polypropylene (oriented and/or biaxially oriented); ethylene vinyl acetate; nylon (oriented and/or biaxially oriented); polyethylene terephthalate (oriented and/or biaxially oriented); polyvinyl chloride; ethylene vinyl alcohol (EVOH); polyvinylidene chloride (PVDC); polyvinyl alcohol (PVOH); polystyrene; foil and/or metalization; and paper. The sealant ribs 36 and 38 are preferably comprised of mono-material, blends, and/or coextrusions of: polyethylene (low, linear low, and/or ultra low density polymers including metallocene); ethylene vinyl acetate, adhesive or low melting temperature sealant.

While the present invention has been described with reference to one or more particular embodiments, those skilled in the art will recognize that many changes may be made thereto without departing from the spirit and scope of the present invention. Each of these embodiments and obvious variations thereof is contemplated as falling within the spirit and scope of the claimed invention, which is set forth in the following claims.

What is claimed is:

1. A method of filling a package, made from a continuous web of material comprising:

providing a plurality of interconnected packages made from said web, each package including first and second opposing body panels joined along a pair of sides and a bottom bridging the sides, the package including a fastener attached to the first body panel along a mouth portion of the package disposed opposite the bottom, the fastener initially being at least partially unattached to the second body panel while the fastener is attached to the first body panel;

separating each package from said plurality of interconnected packages;

filling the separated package with a product via a fill opening between the fastener and the second body panel; and

attaching the fastener to the second body panel of the filled package to seal the fill opening.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein the fastener includes first and second interlocking profiles and first and second fins extending from the respective profiles, the first and second fins being joined along the breakable area of weakness, the first fin being attached to the first body panel, the second fin being at least partially unattached to the second body panel while the fastener is attached to the first body panel.

3. The method of claim 2, wherein the fill opening in the step of filling the package is between the second fin and the second body panel.

4. The method of claim 3, wherein the step of attaching the fastener to the second body panel includes attaching the second fin to the second body panel.

5. The method of claim 1 further including the step of sealing said first and second body panels above said fastener.

6. A method of making and filling a package, comprising: providing a package including first and second opposing body panels;

attaching a fastener to the first body panel along a mouth portion of the package;

attaching said first and second panels to each other to form a pair of sides and a bottom bridging the sides opposite the fastener;

filling the package with a product via a fill opening between the fastener and the second body panel; and

attaching the fastener to the second body panel to seal the fill opening.

7. The method of claim 6, wherein the fastener includes first and second interlocking profiles and first and second fins extending from the respective profiles, the fill opening in the step of filling the package being between the second fin and the second body panel, wherein the step of attaching the fastener to the first body panel includes attaching the first fin to the first body panel, and wherein the step of attaching the fastener to the second body panel includes attaching the second fin to the second body panel.

8. The method of claim 7, wherein the first and second fins are joined to each other along the breakable area of weakness.

9. A method of making and filling packages, comprising: providing a plastic web and a fastener in a longitudinal direction;

folding the web to provide first and second opposing panels joined along a longitudinal bottom; attaching the fastener to an inner surface of the first panel near a longitudinal edge thereof opposite the longitudinal bottom;

sealing the first and second panels to each other at spaced seals transverse to the longitudinal direction to form the packages;

filling each package with a product via a fill opening between the fastener and the second panel; and attaching the fastener to an inner surface of the second panel to seal the fill opening.

10. The method of claim 9, wherein said bottom includes a gusset.

11. A method of filling a package made from a continuous web of material, comprising:

providing a plurality of interconnected packages made from said web, each package including two panels defining a mouth portion and a reclosable fastener that is useful for opening and closing said mouth portion after said package is filled, said fastener having a final attachment position on said two panels and being attached to said two panels along only a portion of said final attachment position so as to define an unattached segment and an attached segment of said fastener, said unattached segment and the adjacent one of said two panels define a fill opening therebetween;

filling said package with a product through said fill opening; and

separating each package from said plurality of interconnected packages;

attaching said unattached segment of said fastener to said panels along the entirety of said final attachment position.

12. The method of claim 11, wherein said package includes a bottom with a gusset.

13. The method of claim 11, wherein said fastener includes a first interlocking profile with a first fin and second interlocking profile with a second fin.

14. The method of claim 13, wherein said first and second fins are joined along a breakable area of weakness.

15. The method of claim 13, wherein, during said providing step, said first fin is attached to a first one of said two panels along said final attachment position and said second fin is at least partially unattached to a second one of said two panels along said final attachment position, said second fin and said second panel defining said fill opening.

16. The method of claim 14, wherein said second fin is entirely unattached to said second one of said two body panels along said final attachment position.